

**COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY
MINUTES**

January 11, 2002
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Arizona State Courts Building
Conference Room 230
1501 West Washington, Phoenix Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louraine Arkfeld
Kent Batty
Mike Baumstark
Robert Dorfman
Diane Drain
Marcus Reinkensmeyer (for Gordon Griller)
Joseph Howard
Michael Jeanes
John Kennedy
Gary Krcmarik
Martin Krizay
Justice Ruth McGregor
Clark Munger
Mike Ryan (for Edward Voss)
Gary Pope

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Henry Alvarez
Julie Carlson
Kenneth Harris

AOC STAFF:

Dave Byers
Dave Davis
Gary Graham
Maureen Haggerty
Karl Heckart
Justice Charles Jones
Pamela Peet
Christine Powell
David Sands
Veronica Villa
Candis Whitecraft

GUESTS:

Kim Johnson, Clerk of the Superior Court
Office, Pinal County
Don Jacobson, Court Administrator, Flagstaff
Municipal Court
Virlynn Tinnell, Clerk of Superior Court, Mohave
County
Karen Ferrara, Court Administrator, Superior
Court in Cochise County
Denise Lundin, Clerk of the Superior Court,
Cochise County
Cary Meister, Court Administrator's Office,
Superior Court in Yuma County
Beverly Frame, Clerk of Superior Court, Yuma
County
Nick Felber, Court Administrator's Office,
Yuma County
Deborah M. Schaefer, Court Administrator,
Superior Court in Yavapai County
Michael Tomkins, Court Automation Systems
Manager, Mohave County
Mohyeddin Abdulaziz, Court of Appeals
John Barrett, Maricopa Superior Court
Carol Merfeld, Pima Superior Court
Paul O'Connell, Court Administrator's Office,
Pinal County
Tom Grady, Tempe Municipal
Will Tagart, Maricopa County

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Justice Ruth McGregor called the meeting of the Commission on Technology to order on January 11, 2002 at 9:30am. Justice McGregor welcomed members, staff and guests who were present. Judge Pope noted that he was retiring and that this was his last meeting with the Commission.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2001, Commission on Technology meeting. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-02-01.

JUDICIAL BRANCH STRATEGIC PLAN

Chief Justice Jones expressed his appreciation for all the Commission on Technology has done to support the Judicial Branch, especially its efforts in keeping the uses of technology consistent. He acknowledged that with the budget cuts and funding challenges, the courts will be facing new problems. He felt that the judiciary needed to finish started projects, especially the public access and domestic violence warehouses and jury software.

He noted three questions that the Commission on Technology must ask when presented with new projects.

- 1) Does this project address a critical need?
- 2) Does it improve the courts?
- 3) What is the funding impact?

He assured members that the change in leadership did not change the judiciary's priorities. He stressed that the technology momentum must be maintained and that the COT will continue to have an important role in advising the judiciary on technology investments.

REGIONAL-BASED COUNTIES: PANEL PRESENTATION

Six regional counties (Cochise, Coconino, Mohave, Pinal, Yavapai and Yuma) gave a two-part presentation with Gary Krcmarik officiating. First they presented topical issues. Then each county presented unique local perspectives and priorities.

The topical issues were as follows:

- Kim Johnson presented the priority for standardized business processes. The clerks of the Superior Court from each county have joined together to agree upon standardized processes and AZTEC table codes.
- Virlynn Tinnell presented the need for improved financial processing features in AZTEC.
- Karen Ferrara focused on the use of video conferencing technology.
- Deborah Schaefer stressed the importance and effectiveness of the field trainer program. She hoped that the COT would extend the 50% funding.
- Denise Lundin presented the value of a web presence, including providing the public with the

ability to see court calendars, fee schedules (for arraignments), receive marriage licenses by mail, provide juror information/directions, passport information, self service centers (provide forms), FAQ's, and docket and case information.

- Kim Johnson presented the desire of clerks to implement EDMS (Electronic Document Management) to reduce the cost of storage space and allow electronic distribution of documents.
- Cary Meister presented the need for court IT staff, suggesting the various support roles that such staff could play. They would provide many benefits, especially technology training support and a faster response time to problems.
- Nick Felber and Beverly Frame presented the advantages of using audio, digital and video recording for the court record.
- Don Jacobson presented the desirability of and goals for justice integration at the local agency level. He described a Coconino County justice integration project involving the courts, police, sheriff, and the county and city prosecutor's office.

Following the topical presentations, each county then presented information on its activity and accomplishments and noted their goals.

- Denise Lundin, Clerk of Superior Court and Karen Ferrara, Court Administrator, presented Cochise County courts' accomplishments, especially those resulting from the field trainer program. They outlined projects they plan on pursuing in the near future.
- Michael Tomkins presented the accomplishments and IT direction for Mohave County courts.
- Pinal County accomplishments in both the court administration and clerk of court offices were presented by Alma Haught and Kim Johnson. They outlined their planned implementation of MEEDS, an EDMS and a collections system.
- Debi Schaefer, Court Administrator, provided an overview of Yavapai County courts' accomplishments and goals.
- Cary Meister characterized Yuma County and provided a summary of accomplishments and planned IT projects.
- Frank Maiocco presented accomplishments and goals for Coconino County Courts, including their participation in local integration projects and the pilot electronic criminal disposition reporting to DPS.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Karl Heckart presented the soon-to-be-launched public access to case information web site. He described the filters on the cases (e.g. no juvenile cases, mental health cases are accessible via the web) and information. He responded to members' questions about the specifics of the information on the site. The site will be published on the Web at the end of January.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

David Sands, AOC, gave members an overview of the court's planned legislative action. He noted that with budget cuts probable, he was pessimistic about next year's outlook. He reviewed the provisions of the fee bill proposed to the legislature.

JCEF AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Karl Heckart provided members with an overview of the projected JCEF/TCPF revenue and project expenses. He noted the loss of the time payment increase was significant. The large volume court development efforts constituted the greatest single commitment of funding. He listed all the projects which have been prioritized and committed to. There was unanimous agreement that affirmed these commitments which included the Large Volume Court Development and Municipal Court Development projects, Justice Integration software and operation, an EDMS grant for Maricopa Superior Court and Court Protective Order Repository - Phase 1. He also outlined the pending projects.

The status and issues for various on-going statewide projects was provided, including:

- AZTEC probate module
It is implemented in Pima and planned next for Pinal.
- Justice integration
The AOC is working with DPS to provide law enforcement access to adult and juvenile probation information.
- Electronic document management
Karl noted Maricopa Superior's implementation. He expressed concern about a proliferation of multiple systems, the risks of going with unproven vendors and the limited resources available for interfacing an EDMS to AZTEC. There was some discussion of this and Mike Jeanes agreed to address the issue at the next Clerk's meeting.

Some discussion of how the courts can contribute to the homeland security effort with sharing of information ensued. Funding to support this effort was a focus.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.